



RICK SNYDER
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF LICENSING AND REGULATORY AFFAIRS
MICHIGAN OFFICE OF NEW AMERICANS, HISPANIC/LATINO COMMISSION OF
MICHIGAN, MICHIGAN ASIAN PACIFIC AMERICAN AFFAIRS COMMISSION, AND
COMMISSION ON MIDDLE EASTERN AMERICAN AFFAIRS

SHELLY EDGERTON
DIRECTOR

01/10/2018

Dear Governor Snyder,

As leaders of HLC, MAPAAC, CMEAA and MONA, we would like to offer our perspectives on HB-4053 – English as Official State Language.

- We believe that passage of HB-4053 will hinder our commitment to make Michigan the most Welcoming state for New Americans. The lack of a clear purpose contained in this Bill will only perpetuate the divisiveness that exists on a national level and will undermine Michigan's status as a Welcoming state.
- We believe that passage of HB-4053 will have a negative impact on Michigan's ability to recruit and retain global talent. One of the unintended consequences of HB-4053 is the negative message it delivers to Global Talents who may want to bring their elderly parents with them and who have very limited or no English proficiency. Will they select Michigan or another state that feels friendlier for their parents?
- We believe that such legislation is unnecessary and our position is even supported by the bill's Sponsor, Rep. Tom Barrett, who in an interview with MLive on December 13, stated "...and let's be realistic, English is our official language already."
- We believe that the English language is not at risk and HB-4053 shows no evidence to assume that it is.
- We believe that Michigan's commitment to be a welcoming state and to be a destination state for talent from around the world, will be enhanced by passing bills like HB-4110 – "Fred Korematsu Day" designate as January 30

of each year and HB-4619 – a bill to facilitate access to state services by individuals with limited English proficiency.

We are deeply appreciative for your support in our work and offer you our willingness to meet with you and to discuss this matter in greater details.

With Respect,



Noel Garcia Jr.



Jamie Hsu, Ph.D



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